GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Ecologically Sensitive Areas
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government has notified Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) across the Western Ghats recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof ;
(c)the current status of the 4156 ESAs across six States;
(d)whether the Government has excluded some of the selected ESA villages as per the request/proposal of the States; and
(e)if so, the details thereof along with the list of excluded ESAs, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (b): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought out a fresh draft notification dated 4th September, 2015 for declaring ecologically sensitive areas in the Western Ghats in supersession of the earlier draft notification issued on 10th March, 2014 after incorporating provisions to clarify and to dispel the apprehensions and concerns raised by various stakeholders.

(c) to (e)Reports of the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala, after undertaking demarcation of ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) by physical verification in their respective States in Western Ghats with respect to the 4156 villages identified as eco-sensitive by the High Level Working Group (HLWG) have been received from the respective State Governments .

The extent of the Ecologically Sensitive Area covering a total area of 56,685 square kilometers which is spread across six States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the earlier draft notification dated 10th March 2014 remain unchanged in the fresh Draft Notification dated 04.09.2015.

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